

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH March 13, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Bill Munroe; Robert Bollengier, and Mary Walsh. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; arrived at 7:04 p.m. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Walsh read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM –.Chair DeSack recognized Boy Scout troop members sitting in the audience. One troop member explained that the troop is attending tonight's meeting as part of a requirement in earning the Citizenship Merit Badge.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member

Geoffrey Southworth reported that four wonderful performances of Little Shop of Horrors took place this past weekend.

Vice Chair Cicero arrived at this time, (7:04 p.m.).

Geoffrey reminded everyone of the Pasta Dinner benefiting fire victims scheduled for Friday, March 16th.

Member Bollengier moved to move up agenda item, Policy #7605 – Promotion Retention Policy – 2nd Reading to this time. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

POLICIES – Review and Adoption - #7605 – Promotion Retention Policy – 2nd Reading – Chair DeSack advised that this agenda item was erroneously posted for Adoption, when in fact it is before the committee tonight for a 2nd Reading. Community member Policy Committee volunteer Bill Clay spoke concerning the cost impact of this policy. Members and Administrators briefly reviewed policy language, plans for intervention and progress monitoring, and the existing process in place as it differs from this policy. Consensus of the committee was that there is a need to implement consistent assessment standards in order to be certain that all students are assessed equally. This item will carry over to the next agenda for Adoption.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar

gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

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Member Munroe requested that consent agenda item, B. Personnel Items, 2. Leaves of Absence, a. Request for an extension of Leave of Absence without pay from Larry Purtill, from his position as Sr. High School History Teacher, for the 2007 – 2008 and 2008 – 2009 school years, be pulled for discussion.

Vice Chair Cicero requested that consent agenda item, A. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session Minutes of February 27, 2007 be pulled.

Member Maher requested that consent agenda item, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments – a. James Franklin, as 1.0 FTE District wide Maintenance Worker, Salary \$36,018, effective on or about March 14, 2007 be pulled for discussion.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda with items, B., 2., a. and A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of February 27, 2007 and B., 1., a. pulled. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27,

2007

B. Personnel Items – (No Change to FTE's)

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

b. Request for an extension of her leave of absence, without pay, from Sharon Lee from her position as a Sr. High School Science Teacher for the 2007 – 2008 school year, in order to continue as a Quality Fellow at the Rhode Island Department of Education

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$49,169.64

End Consent Agenda

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Vice Chair Cicero moved to move up the discussion of items pulled from the consent agenda to this time. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to seal the Executive Session Minutes of February 27, 2007. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

Referencing consent agenda item B., 2., a., Member Munroe voiced his concerns regarding the request for an extended leave of absence and he recommended that the committee deny this request. Member Walsh voiced her opinion that the request should be granted since there is not a policy in place averting such requests and there is no monetary impact involved. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Superintendent Geismar confirmed that he felt granting this request is the right thing to do because there is not a policy in place regarding this subject matter. He offered to work with the committee to formulate a policy to address future requests. Some members expressed their concerns regarding the amount of leave time (eight-years) already permitted to this individual. Consensus of the committee was to have the Policy Committee engage in preparing a policy to address this subject.

Chair DeSack moved to approve consent agenda item, B. Personnel Items, 2. Leaves of Absence, a. Request for an extension of Leave of Absence without pay from Larry Purtill, from his position as Sr. High School History Teacher, for the 2007 – 2008 and 2008 – 2009 school

years. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 2 – 5. Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, and Members Maher, Bollengier, and Munroe voted no. Leave is denied

Chair DeSack reverted back to consent agenda item, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, a. James Franklin, as 1.0 FTE District wide Maintenance Worker, Salary \$36,018, effective on or about March 14, 2007 pulled by Member Maher.

Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Members' clarifying questions regarding details of the above mentioned work assignment and the process of determining the recommended step for new hires.

Member Maher moved to approve consent agenda item, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, a. James Franklin, as 1.0 FTE District wide Maintenance Worker, Salary \$36,018, effective on or about March 14, 2007. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

Chair DeSack reviewed the Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) March 5, 2007 Memo from Nancy Daley Regarding Personal Conference Reports; (2) February 26, 2007 Letter from Kenneth Swanson copied to Superintendent Geismar

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MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent’s Status Report –
Chair DeSack asked if there is a timeline set regarding the high school search - school safety mentioned in the Superintendent’s Status Report. Superintendent Geismar responded it is set for the end of this month.

Business Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Business Status Report.

Curriculum Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Curriculum Status Report.

Special Education Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Special Education Status Report.

Maintenance Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Maintenance Status Report.

Technology Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Technology Status Report.

MONTHLY BUDGET PROJECTION 2006 – 2007 – Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed that the 06/07 budget remains

in the black.

NEW BUSINESS – Sr. High School Quebec Trip - Proposal – Sr. High School foreign language teacher Mary Lou Greboval responded to members' questions and concerns regarding students and chaperones holding the required passports for international travel. As per the committees' request, Ms. Greboval will contact US immigration to ensure that proper procedures are followed.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to approve the trip to Quebec City, Canada for April 27 – April 30, 2007. Seconded by Member Maher.

Member Maher reminded members of past School Committee endorsed student trips and of the Student Travel policy which requires a specific student/chaperone ratio. Vice Chair Cicero noted that the Student Travel policy requires that all non-employee chaperones undergo a Criminal Background Check and fingerprinting.

Vice Chair Cicero modified her motion – to approve the Canada trip for April 27 – April 30, 2007 with the inclusion to follow the guidelines of the Student Travel Policy. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

Letter from Senator Breene – Chair DeSack referenced a letter sent to the committee by Senator Breene which states that School

specific district issue. She said that in tonight's supplemental packets she has provided correspondence with dates and times illustrating when members were made aware of this issue. Chair DeSack said that she plans to draft a letter of response to Senator Breene which she will copy to members in the next School Committee packet for their review and approval prior to mailing it.

Final Budget 2007 – 2008 – Clerk Coutcher moved to approve the budget as proposed by the Superintendent. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Member Bollengier brought forward two items of concern that he has regarding cuts to the proposed budget. Superintendent Geismar spoke to those items and emphasized his opinion that all programs have value. He said that the budget process requires a bottom line, he has given his best efforts at this time, and he is keeping an open mind and perhaps in the future items can be readdressed. Member Walsh reiterated that Director of Administration Robert Ross has assured her that although the Jr. – Sr. High School Art Department line item appears negative; it is inaccurate and has been restored. Members conversed regarding the exclusion of after school busing. They talked briefly about the .5 Math Specialist position and the

funding of refilling hand gel dispensers.

Chair DeSack reminded members of the motion on the table – to approve the budget as proposed by the Superintendent.

Voted 7 – 0.

Bond Feasibility Study – Chair DeSack said that when the School Committee met with the Town Councils, it was their recommendation that the district seek cost estimates for repairs needed throughout the school district. After a brief discussion, consensus of the committee was to have Director of Administration Robert Ross meet with the architectural firm and to report back to the committee at a future meeting.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to direct Bob Ross to meet with Torrado Architect and start the process for the feasibility study and to come back with estimated costs. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the project is moving along as planned. The anticipated completion date is Friday, April 13, 2007.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS –Monday, March 26, 2007 –

Public Hearing; Tuesday, March 27, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Friday, April 6, 2007 – Good Friday; Monday, April 9, 2007 – District Financial Meeting; Tuesday, April 10, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; April 16-20, 2007 – Spring Recess; Tuesday, April 24, 2007 – School Committee Meeting

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Chair DeSack asked members to remind fellow community members to support the budget by attending the District Financial Meeting on Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Vice Chair Cicero requested that the DFM and the Public Hearing notices be posted on the district website.

REPORTS/COMMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Member Walsh moved to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (9) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Grievance(s); 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion; 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Robert S. vs. Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District – Discussion Regarding Pending Litigation; and 42-26-5 (a)(1) – Personnel – Sick Leave. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

**Chair DeSack moved to reconvene to Open Session.
Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.**

Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:25 p.m.

During Executive Session the School Committee took two votes.

The committee voted 7 – 0 to deny the grievance presented.

The second vote taken during Executive Session will not be disclosed in Open Session because it may compromise the confidentiality of the vote and jeopardize the interest of the district.

**ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.
Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 - 0. Meeting adjourned 10:25 p.m.**

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK